

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, on March 13, 2007, I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall vote 140. For the RECORD, had I been present, I would have voted: 140—"yea."

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, with spring upon us, college students across the Nation are trekking to our Nation's coastal areas in search of sunny skies and sandy beaches. Yes, Madam Speaker, spring break is upon us.

Often, this collegiate ritual is typified by moral abandon and excesses of many types. However, today it is my pleasure to highlight several students from the University of Wyoming who visited the Nation's Capital to take part in an entirely different spring break experience.

Last week, eight students traveled here from Laramie, Wyoming, to take part in an up-and-coming program known as "Alternative Spring Break." Here in Washington, they spent their days not sightseeing or sunbathing like many of their peers, but volunteering with the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Their week included long days spent working to serve homeless individuals and learning about the special needs of this all-too-frequently overlooked population of needy Americans.

Students like Amanda Blair, Jonathan McBride, Mackenzie Mixer, Lydia Bustos, John Ellis, Amber Johnson, Bailey Loghry, Jonathan Ingebrigtsen, Amber Pace, Brynn Hvidston, and their coordinators Robyn Paulekas at UW and Michael O'Neill of the National Coalition for the Homeless, are role models for people of all ages.

These students will undoubtedly now have spring break memories to last a lifetime. They deserve all the respect and praise this noble body can give.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN THOMAS KLEPPE

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, our Nation lost a great American and this House lost

a most distinguished former Member with the passing of Thomas Kleppe at age 87 on March 2, 2007. Tom Kleppe was elected from the 2nd district of North Dakota in 1966 and 1968.

Tom was probably best known to the Nation for his service as Secretary of the Interior under President Ford, however he was best known to his home State of North Dakota for his service in Congress from 1966 to 1970. Tom was a trailblazer in North Dakota, being elected as the youngest-ever mayor of Bismarck at the age of 30 and the first native of North Dakota to ever serve in a Presidential cabinet when he was appointed Interior Secretary in 1975.

Tom exemplified the definition of the "Greatest Generation," having served his country as a warrant officer in the U.S. Army for 4 years during World War II. Shortly before being honorably discharged in 1946, Tom turned down an offer from the St. Louis Cardinals to return to his native North Dakota, and our State is the better for it.

As the son of homesteaders in Kintyre, ND, Tom was instilled with the enterprising spirit and work ethic that have made North Dakota prosper. By the time he was a teenager, Tom was working for his father's grain elevator business. He went on to work in bookkeeping and banking before entering public service, where he served as the mayor of Bismarck and later served two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. There Tom was known as a strong advocate for North Dakota's farmers and ranchers on the Agriculture Committee.

Kleppe was appointed to head the Small Business Administration by President Nixon, a post he held from 1971–1975, when President Ford appointed him Interior Secretary. Tom served in this position for the remainder of Ford's term. During his tenure, Kleppe proved an able steward of the Nation's land and wildlife. Even long after moving to Washington, DC, Tom never lost touch with his prairie roots, and continued to ride horses well into his 80s.

Tom is survived by his wife of 48 years, Glendora Kleppe, and his 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. The State of North Dakota mourns the loss of a great public servant.

PEACE IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, China enacted an anti-secession law which "gave" China the right to overtake Taiwan by force. Since then both Taiwan and the United States have asked China to rescind the law. So far China has ignored all pleas. Instead, it has increased its number of guided missiles deployed along the coast of Taiwan, threatening war anytime. In addition, China

has prevented Taiwan from participating in international organizations such as the World Health Organization and heightened its bellicose rhetoric against the democratically-elected Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian.

As a rising world power, China must assume the responsibility of a global leader. It must lessen the tensions in the Taiwan Strait by rescinding the bad anti-secession law which has deeply hurt the feelings of the Taiwanese people. China should also reduce its military presence along the coast of Taiwan and learn to respect the wishes of the Taiwanese people.

I urge my colleagues to give Taiwan our support. Taiwan is a democracy and an ally of the United States. Under the framework of the Taiwan Relations Act, we must make sure that peace and stability continue to prevail in the Taiwan Strait.

HONORING THE CHICAGO ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the great privilege of honoring the Chicago Academy for the Arts. In September of 2006, the Chicago Academy for the Arts received the Creative Ticket National Schools of Distinction Award from the Kennedy Center's Alliance for the Arts Education Network. In addition to this notable award, on Saturday, March 24, at 6 p.m., the students from this institution will have the rare honor and distinction of performing on the Millennium stage in the Kennedy Center. This is a great moment in these students' young lives, where all of their hard work has paid off so rewardingly.

This award represents the culmination of 25 years of practical and academic training in the fine arts. The academy is the only independent secondary school in Illinois that offers specialized training in dance, music, theatre, musical theatre, and visual arts. Their mission is to prepare young artists for life through rigorous academic education and professional arts training. To anyone from Chicago, it comes as no surprise that this high school was among only two high schools in the Nation to receive the honor. The school was also named the State's top arts school in March 2006 by the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education, which is in the Kennedy Center Alliance. This prestigious institution has consistently produced outstanding students with an immense talent and commitment to the arts. Daily, the 160 students complete a rigorous, 5-hour academic day in English, mathematics, foreign language, history, science, and social studies. They then move on to 3 hours of learning about the theory, history, and technique of the student's chosen art discipline, taught through intensive classroom and studio work under the direction of exemplary arts professionals. The

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

academy supports a diverse population, with 46 percent of students coming from outside the city of Chicago and 5 percent from outside the State. Nearly half of the students rely on financial aid and scholarships to attend this marvelous institution. The Chicago Academy for the Arts demonstrates an incredible commitment to higher education, with 97 percent of students continuing onto top colleges and conservatories.

The Chicago Academy for the Arts shines as a beacon for students pursuing both strong academic and artistic training so that they can become the future leaders in their disciplines. I congratulate them on their impressive accomplishments, and I hope they break a proverbial leg on Saturday.

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my alma mater Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville, where I graduated with my MBA in 1997, on its 50th anniversary.

The University currently serves nearly 13,500 students from 101 Illinois counties, 43 other U.S. States, and 46 nations. Since its inception, the institution has directly influenced the rate of individuals earning 4-year degrees in the St. Louis Metropolitan area of Southern Illinois, up from 3 percent in Madison and St. Clair counties in 1957 to 20 percent today. The University contributes roughly \$356 million to its regional economy, according to an Economic Impact Study released in May 2006, and more than 37,000 alumni live in the region and contribute to the economy.

Over the last 50 years the institution has played a major role in elevating the quality of people's lives, as well as their earning potential in Illinois. Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville has conferred more than 90,000 degrees in its history, with more than 75,000 alumni. The institution helped more than 8,000 people in the East St. Louis area and surrounding communities in the year 2006 through services, training opportunities, and programs at the SIUE East St. Louis Center.

Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville has been ranked two consecutive years among U.S. News & World Report's America's 15 Best Colleges, along with Harvard University, MIT, and other prestigious institutions, for its Senior Assignment Program and integrative learning experience required for all seniors prior to graduation. The University's Senior Assignment Program also was ranked as a model for learning assessment in the country by the American Association of Colleges & Universities in January 2007. The School of Dental Medicine, rated among the top dental schools in the Nation, is the only dental school in Illinois outside Cook County and the only dental school within 250 miles of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. The dental school provides more than \$50,000 in free oral health care to children annually through Give Kids a Smile Day and more than \$30,000 annually in care to low-income and uninsured patients who otherwise might go untreated.

After finishing fourth nationally in the U.S. Sports Academy Directors' Cup among NCAA

Division II schools in 2006, the institution is now currently in the process of moving its quality intercollegiate athletics program forward to NCAA Division I status.

I am pleased to congratulate Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville on its 50 years of accomplishments.

THE SAFE CLIMATE ACT OF 2007

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to join over 125 of my House colleagues in reintroducing the Safe Climate Act.

As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently announced, the fact that the planet is warming is now unequivocal. And the human role in this is no longer in debate.

The planet is at a crossroads, and it is time for us to choose to act.

I originally introduced this legislation just 9 months ago today.

At that time, I discussed how there are different approaches that can be taken to climate legislation. Some bills seek a symbolic recognition of the problem. Others are premised on what may be politically achievable in the near term.

The Safe Climate Act was drafted on a different premise: It reflects what the science tells us we need to do to protect our children and future generations from irreversible and catastrophic global warming. The bill has aggressive requirements to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. But the reality is, these are the reductions that scientists say we need to achieve to preserve a safe climate for future generations.

No one had yet proposed legislation that aimed to solve the climate crisis, and I wasn't sure how my colleagues and others would respond to this proposal.

However, in just 9 months, there has been remarkable progress in building consensus on this approach.

During the last Congress, I was pleased that 113 members decided to cosponsor my legislation. I was particularly delighted that Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI decided to endorse the bill.

Then in January of this year, a coalition of environmental groups and companies joined together in calling for emission reductions that are consistent with the reductions required by my legislation. This coalition, calling itself the U.S. Climate Action Partnership, is made up of Alcoa, BP America, Caterpillar Inc., Duke Energy, DuPont, Environmental Defense, FPL Group, General Electric, Lehman Brothers, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, PG&E Corporation, PNM Resources and the World Resources Institute. And many others, including such diverse entities as states, American workers, small businesses, religious congregations and outdoors enthusiasts, are all urging comparable levels of emissions reductions.

All of these groups recognize an important truth—global warming is the greatest environmental challenge of our time, and we have a short window in which to act to prevent profound changes to the climate system. Unless

we seize the opportunity to act now, and act decisively, our legacy to our children and grandchildren will be an unstable and dangerous planet.

The science clearly tells us what we need to do—we must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, starting now and continuing over the next few decades. To achieve this, we have to grow our economy into a new and cleaner future. It's simply too late for legislative baby steps.

I have been working to address the threat of global warming for many years. Over 10 years ago, the science and the threat of global warming were clear. That's why I introduced the Global Climate Protection Act of 1992, which would have frozen U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide at 1990 levels. But Congress failed to act.

Now our understanding of global warming has only grown stronger. We're actually experiencing the effects of climate change today. And they are not good.

As the earth warms, its ice is melting. From the glaciers in Glacier National Park, to the snows of Kilimanjaro and the Larson B iceshell in Antarctica, ice that has been here since the last ice age is disappearing or already gone. Accordingly, sea levels will rise, posing enormous challenges for our coastal communities. The permafrost supporting towns and roads in Alaska is melting rapidly, and the summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is diminishing each year. These are changes we can see with our own eyes.

The seasons are changing—maple sugar producers in Vermont are tapping trees earlier, plants are flowering earlier, and birds are migrating earlier. These changes are happening across the globe. And with warmer weather come bugs that are no longer being killed by the winter cold, such as the beetles that are destroying forests across the Southwest and Alaska.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently confirmed that we have already observed climate-related changes in extreme weather including droughts, heavy precipitation, heat waves and the intensity of tropical cyclones. The year 2005 broke hurricane records, and America experienced the devastating results of just a few such storms with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The scientists have been proven right about global warming, over and over again, across the planet. We should start listening to them.

Now they are telling us that we have about 10 years to act to avoid being locked into irreversible global warming on a scale that will transform the planet. The scientists have identified a global temperature rise of just 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit as enough to produce undeniably dangerous consequences, such as 20 feet or more of sea level rise, which would flood large parts of Florida and New York City, as well as huge population centers in other countries. And scientists have calculated the quantity of atmospheric greenhouse gases that would very likely cause such a temperature rise. The nations of the world must keep greenhouse gases below that level to avoid irreversible dangerous global warming.

The United States emits more greenhouse gases than any other country in the world—about 20 percent of the total worldwide. We simply cannot avoid catastrophic global warming without substantial cuts in U.S. emissions. Of course, every nation will have to do its part.

According to the best science, under any plausible scenario of future international actions to stabilize the climate, the United States will eventually need to reduce its emissions by about 80 percent.

Fortunately, we have some time to get there, as long as we start reducing our total emissions now. And that's what the Safe Climate Act does. It caps U.S. emissions in 2010, and then gradually reduces them by just 2 percent per year until 2020. This gives us over a decade to deploy the cleaner technologies that we already have but aren't using much, such as hybrid vehicles and wind power. After 2020, emissions must fall under the legislation by roughly 5 percent per year, as more advanced technologies, such as biofuels from waste materials and capturing carbon dioxide from power plants, become widely available.

The Safe Climate Act reduces emissions through a flexible, market-based emissions trading program, as well as complementary requirements for cleaner cars and more electricity from renewable energy and efficiency. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy would oversee these programs nationally, while States would retain their authority to act on the State level. In effect, the Safe Climate Act sets the targets and then unleashes market forces and American ingenuity to solve the problem.

This sounds ambitious, and it is. But it is also completely doable, once we decide to act. Look at what we've already achieved. In just over 30 years, from the passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970 to 2002, the total air pollution from all automobiles was reduced by over 60 percent. We achieved these reductions even as the total number of vehicle miles traveled increased by 160 percent and GDP grew by 166 percent.

From 1990 to 1996, in just 6 years, we ended production of key chemicals destroying the Earth's protective tropospheric ozone layer and shifted to substitutes. Those chemicals had been widely used throughout the economy in applications from air conditioning and refrigeration to solvents and fire suppression.

In each case, entrenched industries told Congress that changes of these magnitudes would be impossible to achieve without massive economic dislocation. And in each case, they were wrong.

Our Nation has made dramatic advances in technology that have transformed our lives. We can do it again in developing new innovations for transportation and energy production. The Safe Climate Act will give the market the incentives necessary to unleash American ingenuity and solve the problem.

We've ignored the threat of global warming for almost too long, but we still have an opportunity if we act now. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this critically important bill, and I urge the committee of jurisdiction to consider it without further delay. We must face and overcome the challenge of global warming, and the Safe Climate Act is the way to do it.

H. CON. RES. 62: SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, a National Children and Families Day will encourage families to embrace the qualities needed to raise happy and healthy citizens. For example, families teach children the lessons they must learn to live productive and prosperous lives. They care for children by giving them love, warmth, and encouragement while providing food, shelter, and financial support. Strong families build trusting relationships by demonstrating commitment to all the members of the family. This includes following through with promises, working as a team, open and honest communication about important decisions and reflections on the passing day. All families experience crisis, but strong and committed families use these experiences to learn and to grow. Family members should spend time together talking, reading, playing games, and participating in outdoor activities. They should always encourage each other and be involved in their neighborhoods and community, where the strength of our Nation starts. A National Children and Families Day will highlight these important activities in which families engage and their positive effects on our nation.

A National Children and Families Day also would focus our attention on the need for citizens and Congress to work toward ensuring that every child has a loving family. It is so unfortunate that there are millions of children in our country who do not have the ability to experience on a daily basis, a regular basis, or even an occasional basis the love and care of a stable family relationship. These include children who are involved in the child welfare system.

A National Children and Families Day will help members of Congress focus on ways to enhance and improve the quality of life for all children and families via the programs under our jurisdictions, whether by supporting family-friendly business policies, quality health care, or quality child care. Strong families help make a strong Nation.

While we honor the 4th Saturday of June this year in recognition of the importance of children and their families, it must not stop on one day. Every day families must work at keeping each other strong and loved. And we as a Nation and Congress as a body must never cease our support for the American family and the children that are the future.

TRIBUTE TO AIR EVAC LIFETEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Evac Lifeteam in its celebration of National EMS Week.

The Air Evac Lifeteam serves rural communities and has grown to be the largest inde-

pendently owned and operated membership-based air ambulance service in the United States since its creation in 1985. The company has transported more than 100,000 patients in need, serving as the critical link to improved response time and immediate access to medical care facilities for numerous rural communities across 11 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Illinois. There are five operational bases in Illinois located in Effingham, Marion, Mt. Vernon, Quincy and Springfield which are strategically positioned to serve over forty Illinois counties. Last year the Air Evac Lifeteam air lifted over 2000 critical patients to advance medical centers.

The Air Evac Lifeteam has 1500 employees with significant professional education and experience. A registered nurse and paramedic are on every mission. Registered nurses average 6 years of critical care experience, with a minimum requirement of 3 years experience. Paramedics average 10 years of active pre-hospital experience, with a minimum requirement of 3 years experience. All medical crew members are certified as well. The Air Evac Lifeteam pilots are skilled and certified aviators that meet Federal Aviation Authority approval and have flown, on average, of more than 5,700 hours.

The National EMS Week celebration will be held at the Effingham base on Thursday, May 24, 2007. There will be a meet and greet of EMS Political IDPH Leaders as well as a host of EMS crews, government officials, hospital administration and staff, local and regional media, plus a variety of Illinois healthcare providers.

I am pleased to congratulate the Air Evac Lifeteam on its accomplishments and its service to the rural communities. I also wish the Air Evac Lifeteam well for its week-long celebration and future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 157, 158, 159, I missed due to airline mixup and malfunction. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF RACHEL R. KLAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a moment today to recognize Rachel Klay, a devoted friend and dedicated public servant who retired from the United States Secret Service on January 19 of this year.

I had the pleasure of getting to know Rachel over the course of her 24-year career with the Secret Service—and I can say, with the utmost confidence, that she served our country with dignity and integrity every step of the way.

Whenever I or another Member of Congress would visit the White House, we could always count on Rachel to greet us with a smile or funny story. And whenever foreign dignitaries visited Capitol Hill, we could always count on Rachel to be right there with them, ensuring that foreign officials had a safe and comfortable experience while visiting our Nation's capital.

Rachel always fulfilled her duties with all of the dependability, professionalism and love of country that one would expect from a Secret Service agent. But she also brought a kind and lighthearted nature to the job that I, for one, will never forget.

And let me add that I have had the pleasure of employing Secret Service agents in my office through Congressional fellowship programs and, like Rachel, each and every one of them has represented the best our Nation has to offer.

From her upbringing in Orange City, Iowa, to her studies at Northwestern and Sangamon State Universities, to the U.S. Secret Service, Rachel has always excelled and stood out as a leader and as someone people can count on.

As she moves on to bigger and better things, I'd like to congratulate Rachel Klay on a proud career of service to our country and wish her the best of luck in whatever the future holds.

H. RES. 162: RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES AND THEIR PLAYERS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS, DEDICATION AND SACRIFICES TO BASEBALL AND THE NATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, since 1885, long before Major League Baseball was inaugurated in 1903, African Americans were organizing into their own professional leagues. Unfortunately, racial prejudice and lack of adequate financial backing undermined the success of these initial leagues. However, this changed dramatically with the inception of the first successful Negro league. On May 20, 1920, the Negro National League played its first game. Its creation was the result of the efforts of an African American player and manager named Andrew "Rube" Foster. Mr. Foster's success inspired the formation of other leagues as well as thousands of children nationwide.

Six separate leagues that emerged between 1920 and 1960 are collectively known as the Negro Leagues: the Negro National League, Eastern Colored League, American Negro League, East-West League, Negro Southern League, and Negro American League. The lasting legacy of the Negro Leagues includes inspiring events and the tremendous baseball players. They produced what baseball aficionado doesn't know about the first Negro World Series? On October 3, 1924, the first game was played between the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro National League and Hilldale of Philadelphia of the Eastern Colored

League. This historic and exhaustive first series lasted ten games, covered a span of almost three weeks, and was played in four different cities. In the end, Kansas City claimed the championship. Clearly, this was a remarkable and inspiring event.

What baseball aficionado doesn't know Jackie Robinson, the first African American to break the baseball color barrier? Leroy "Satchel" Paige, who was considered one of the greatest pitchers of all time? Josh Gibson, who was a prolific home-run hitter; or Larry Doby, the first African American to play in the American League in July 1947; or John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil, who was the first African American coach in the Major Leagues, played a major role in establishing the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, and was posthumously honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom December 6, 2006?

Madam Speaker, Black history in Major League Baseball has been filled with many successes and a struggle for equity. Therefore, it is important that we remember and honor these players. In breaking down the baseball color barrier, these pioneers dealt a blow to hatred and prejudice across America. I encourage all Americans to recognize the achievements, dedication, and sacrifice that these Black players made to baseball and the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Peter's United Church of Christ located in the small community of Stone Church, Illinois, on their 150th anniversary. St. Peter's United Church of Christ separated from the Independent Evangelical Lutheran St. Johannes Congregation, the mother church, in 1857.

The "Old Stone Church" was built in 1858 and dedicated on January 2, 1859. On March 26, 1948, Good Friday morning, a fire destroyed the entire church. In 1950 ground was broken for a new church, and it was dedicated on March 11, 1951. In 1955 ground was broken for a new parsonage, which was dedicated on October 7, 1956, and in 1958 the Brotherhood was organized. In 1974 the Education Building was built in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Doelling.

On February 11, 2007, St. Peter's began celebrating their sesquicentennial. After several months of celebration, a dedication service will be held on August 26, 2007, followed by a noon dinner at Okawville Community Club where a pictorial history of the Church will be displayed.

HONORING THE SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACES DISTRICT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today together with my col-

league Ms. WOOLSEY to honor the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District located in Northern California. On March 3, the agency received the prestigious County Leadership in Conservation Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) and Trust for Public Land (TPL).

This award is given annually to counties that showcase the best practices in innovative conservation work. As one of the first public agencies in the nation funded by a sales tax to protect agriculture, the Open Space District has continued to distinguish itself nationally. It has protected almost 70,000 acres, including farms, greenbelts, natural open spaces, and recreational areas.

The District was formed as a result of public concern over urbanization in Sonoma County as subdivisions, malls and parking lots threatened to overwhelm land the famed botanist Luther Burbank once called "God's chosen spot." Responding to the very real threat of sprawl, farmers, environmentalists and community leaders joined together in 1990 to pass a sales tax to fund preservation and open space acquisition. So successful is the District that the tax was renewed with a 75-percent approval vote in 2006. Today the tax provides approximately \$13 million a year for the District's land conservation and acquisition programs.

The County Open Space Authority is responsible for levying and distributing the funding, while the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors acts as the Board of Directors. The Supervisors appoint a 17-member Open Space Advisory Committee, representing various stakeholders and interest groups, to recommend acquisitions. Manager Andrea Mackenzie works with all of these groups and other local organizations in identifying and purchasing suitable properties (or conservation easements) and determining the best use for them, from agriculture to resource conservation to public access or recreation.

Madam Speaker, Sonoma County has a beautiful and diverse environment ranging from oak savannah to bay wetlands to coastal redwood forests. Its farmlands are among the richest on the planet and grow grapes for world-class wines, crispy Gravenstein apples and luscious Crane melons and many specialty crops. Its pastures and rangelands support both dairy and meat production. The District ensures that our children's children will always have woodland and hillside trails to hike and homegrown food to enjoy.

These open spaces keep Sonoma County's agricultural economy healthy, provide recreation for visitors and residents, and preserve the very character of the county. I congratulate the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District upon the receipt of the well-deserved County Leadership in Conservation Award and look forward to continuing to work with the District to preserve Sonoma County's natural beauty and agricultural bounty.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
"FLEXIBILITY INCENTIVE GRANT
PILOT PROGRAM"

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important bill that anticipates and addresses our communities' immediate and future transportation needs.

Today I am introducing the Flexibility Incentive Grant Pilot Program, or as I call it—the FIG program.

This legislation creates a \$250 million annual grant program that provides a two-prong approach to growing our national transit program while rewarding states and localities that are making an investment in their transit infrastructure.

Specifically, this legislation will provide incentives to encourage States and counties to establish new sources of revenue for transit projects and services. Such sources may include the dedication of new State motor fuels taxes, sales taxes, interest on existing highway funds, motor vehicle excise taxes, tolls, or other sources of funding.

Furthermore, this legislation rewards those States that currently invest in transit by making them eligible to receive "bonus" payments by the Secretary of Transportation so that they can continue to invest in their transportation infrastructure.

I look at this as a federal transportation tax return for those states and localities that invest in their transportation infrastructure.

Transportation is about partnerships—and funding our infrastructure requires a strong commitment between federal, State and local governments. We need to grow our transit system in order to meet our growing population and infrastructure demands that our states and localities are experiencing.

Fortunately, some States are already making a substantial investment in their transportation infrastructure. For example, in my home state of California, voters last November approved \$19.9 billion in transportation bonds to fund a variety of transportation projects and initiatives.

At the local level, citizens are willing to tax themselves to pay for much need transportation improvements. For example, in my district of Sacramento, a recent survey revealed that 74 percent of Sacramento County residents would support a ballot tax measure for transit and roads. Our citizens understand the need for more transportation funds and are proving this as a priority at the ballot box.

The federal government must play a key leadership role in encouraging this type of initiative.

Why is this so important?

Last week, the American Public Transportation Association announced that Americans took a record 10.1 billion trips on local public transportation in 2006.

Over the last decade, public transportation's growth rate outpaced population growth and the growth rate of vehicle miles traveled on our Nation's highways.

There is great demand on our national transit infrastructure.

Since 1995 public transit use has increased by 30 percent, which is double the population growth in our country, 12 percent, during that same time period.

Despite record levels of federal investment and the display of local jurisdictions to tax themselves for the purposes of increasing the level and quality of public transportation services, we have to make sure that State funding, across our country, keeps pace.

State Legislatures are facing huge deficits and some States have little choice but to freeze or cut funding for many important programs, including transit services.

My legislation is designed to encourage States and counties to think twice before they cut transit funding by providing "bonus" Federal transportation dollars to those States that increase public transportation funding or take steps to increase funding.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, my colleagues and I will be looking for new and innovative ways to fund our transportation programs in the coming years.

The Flexibility Incentive Grant Pilot Program is a good place to start this conversation. I ask that my colleagues support my legislation.

H. CON. RES. 584: TO DESIGNATE
THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN
WASHINGTON, DC, AS THE LYN-
DON BAINES JOHNSON FEDERAL
BUILDING

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, throughout his tenure as President and during his life in general, President Lyndon Baines Johnson held firm to his belief that education was an essential part of the American dream. In particular, he championed the right to quality education for minorities in public schools that were challenged by merit, limited funding, and poor resources. It is fitting that this building bear his name given his central role in passing landmark education legislation.

During his term as President, LBJ signed into law the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. For the first time, this act allocated large amounts of Federal money to public schools, targeting assistance to disadvantaged children in rural and urban areas. In addition, this bill allowed for the first time, private schools, mostly Catholic schools in urban areas, to receive funding and support.

Johnson's second major education achievement was the Higher Education Act of 1965. Again, this bill incorporated the needs of low-income students via grants, the work-study program, and government loans. These are just a small sample of the great accomplishments of President Johnson, a leader who took the steps necessary to make education a top priority for the country, a goal to which we continue to strive today. I salute his great contribution to education. I am proud to see that the headquarters of the Department of Education in Washington, DC, will be commemo-

rated as the Lyndon Baines Johnson Federal Building in honor of our 37th President.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF TROY,
ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Troy, Illinois, on its 150th anniversary.

The City of Troy first began in 1819 as a ten acre spread of land in southern Illinois and soon became the first stagecoach stop for travelers to and from St. Louis. By 1850 the City of Troy became a story of success, and Troy became legally recognized as a town in 1857.

By 1978, Troy became the third fastest growing area in the United States and still continues to prosper.

I am pleased to congratulate Troy on its 150 years of accomplishments.

NEAL SMITH FEDERAL BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, as a proud co-sponsor of H.R. 1045, a bill to designate the federal building located at 210 Walnut street in downtown Des Moines, Iowa as the "Neal Smith Federal Building," I strongly support its passage.

As a distinguished public servant to an Americans—a World War II bomber pilot and the State of Iowa's longest serving Member of the U.S. House of Representatives—Neal Smith deserves to be recognized by this body, where he served the people of Iowa with honor for 36 years.

To this day, Neal Smith is held in high regard by Iowans. His accomplishments as a member of the House Appropriations Committee helped strengthen Iowa's economy and improve the lives of its citizens. In addition to his committee work, Neal Smith championed many issues important to Iowa agriculture and the environment. Neal Smith is credited with creating the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and a federal national wildlife refuge in Prairie City, Iowa that now bears his name.

But what is most impressive to me and most important to Iowa and this country is the dedication and sacrifice Neal Smith made during World War II. As a courageous United States Army Air Force bomber pilot Neal Smith, encountered enemy fire and his plane was shot down. His valor and perseverance earned him the Purple Heart, nine Battle Stars and the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

Neal Smith—Iowa is proud and thankful for your many years of service and I proudly support H.R. 1045.

WHITE PASS SKI AREA EXPANSION PROJECT

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that has occurred in my State over the past 23 years.

The White Pass Ski Area is located in the Cascade Mountain Range in the Gifford Pinchot and Wenatchee National Forests. White Pass is renowned as one of the best small ski areas in the Pacific Northwest and offers particular appeal to families. The area, which provides critical tourism revenue to the surrounding rural communities on both sides of the mountain range, is now looking to expand to provide greater opportunities to skiers in the Pacific Northwest.

Over two decades ago, we succeeded in passing through Congress the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984. This legislation added over 23,000 acres of land to the Goat Rocks Wilderness Area and removed from wilderness designation 800 acres adjacent to the White Pass Ski Area as having "significant potential for ski development" and urging the Secretary of Agriculture to "utilize this potential, in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations."

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan allocated the 800-acre area that Congress had withdrawn from the Wilderness Area back in 1984 to Developed Recreation in recognition of the intent of Congress. However, the LRMP concurrently inventoried as roadless the same 800-acre area. The conflicting, confusing and uncertain status of the subject lands needs addressing, which is why I rise today.

I can say from first-hand experience that, at the time we passed the aforementioned Washington Wilderness Act of 1984, it was congressional intent to permit expansion of the White Pass Ski Area. I would like to submit for the record a letter signed by the 1984 congressional delegation stating that it was our intent to provide for the expansion of White Pass Ski Area. In a February 3, 2004 letter, the U.S. Department of Agriculture also confirmed this congressional intent, stating: "We agree that the intent of Congress was clearly to allow for ski area development in the Hogback Basin." In addition, Congressman BAIRD, who represents the district where White Pass is located, submitted for the RECORD on January 31, 2007 a statement urging clarification and action on this issue.

The Fiscal Year 2007 Interior Appropriations Bill that passed the House in May of last year included important information clarifying congressional intent to permit expansion of White Pass Ski Area. The language stated:

The Committee notes that the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 removed from wilderness designation 800 acres of land adjacent to the White Pass Ski Area in Washington State for potential ski development. The Committee notes that the Gifford Pinchot National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan allocated the 800-acre area as Developed Recreation to allow for ski area expansion, while concurrently inventorying the same land as roadless to reflect its current physical character. The Committee recognizes that it was the intent of Congress to

permit ski area expansion into this 800-acre area and urges the Secretary of Agriculture, once the Environmental Impact Statement for the White Pass Ski Area's Master Development Plan is properly completed, to move forward expeditiously in approving the expansion plans in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Unfortunately, the FY07 Continuing Resolution did not include any report language; therefore the language clarifying congressional intent that passed this body last summer was not included in the CR.

I wanted to bring this issue to the attention of my colleagues and highlight the fact that the House Appropriations Committee was prepared and willing to clarify congressional intent, and that the full House approved that clarification by voting for the fiscal year 2007 Interior Appropriations Bill in May. In keeping with this, I urge the Secretary of Agriculture to move forward expeditiously in approving the expansion plans in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations—once the Environmental Impact Statement is properly completed.

TRIBUTE TO SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, together with my colleague, Mr. THOMPSON from California, I rise today to honor the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District located in Northern California. On March 3, the agency received the prestigious County Leadership in Conservation Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) and Trust for Public Land (TPL).

This award is given annually to counties that showcase the best practices in innovative conservation work. As one of the first public agencies in the nation funded by a sales tax to protect agriculture, the Open Space District has continued to distinguish itself nationally. It has protected almost 70,000 acres, including farms, greenbelts, natural open spaces, and recreational areas.

The District was formed as a result of public concern over urbanization in Sonoma County as subdivisions, malls and parking lots threatened to overwhelm land the famed botanist Luther Burbank once called "God's chosen spot." Responding to the very real threat of sprawl, farmers, environmentalists and community leaders joined together in 1990 to pass a sales tax to fund preservation and open space acquisition. So successful is the District that the tax was renewed with a 75 percent approval vote in 2006. Today the tax provides approximately \$13 million a year for the District's land conservation and acquisition programs.

The County Open Space Authority is responsible for levying and distributing the funding, while the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors acts as the Board of Directors. The Supervisors appoint a 17-member Open Space Advisory Committee, representing various stakeholders and interest groups, to recommend acquisitions. Manager Andrea MacKenzie works with all of these groups and

other local organizations in identifying and purchasing suitable properties (or conservation easements) and determining the best use for them, from agriculture to resource conservation to public access or recreation.

Madam Speaker, Sonoma County has a beautiful and diverse environment ranging from oak savannah to bay wetlands to coastal redwood forests. Its farmlands are among the richest on the planet and grow grapes for world-class wines, crispy Gravenstein apples and luscious Crane melons and many specialty crops. Its pastures and rangelands support both dairy and meat production. The District with its immense support from the public ensures that our children's children will always have woodland and hillside trails to hike and homegrown food to enjoy.

These open spaces keep Sonoma County's agricultural economy healthy, provide recreation for visitors and residents, and preserve the very character of the county. Mr. THOMPSON and I congratulate the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District upon the receipt of the well-deserved County Leadership in Conservation Award and look forward to continuing to work with the District to preserve Sonoma County's natural beauty and agricultural bounty.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN CONTRACTING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1362) to reform acquisition practices of the Federal Government:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1362, which makes several changes to federal acquisition laws to increase transparency and accountability in federal contracting.

Specifically, the bill requires agencies to limit the use of certain types of abuse-prone contracts, and to promote integrity in the acquisition workforce. The bill limits the length of certain noncompetitive contracts and requires large federal agencies to develop plans to minimize the use of noncompetitive contracts and cost-reimbursement type contracts. In addition the bill requires the public disclosure of justification and approval documents required for noncompetitive contracts and requires reports to Congress on certain contract audits. Finally, the bill contains a number of provisions which would improve the acquisition workforce.

The Bush administration has justified the award of lucrative no-bid contracts claiming exigent circumstances. The spending on no-bid contracts has more than doubled under the Bush Administration. The time has come again for us to continue in the tradition of restoring accountability back into Congress. This legislation builds on the progress we have made to return to the basic principles of fiscal responsibility and restore Congress's role as a check on the Executive Branch.

Transparency and integrity is needed in order for accountability to be restored in the

federal contracting process so that taxpayers' money can be protected from waste, fraud, and abuse. The effect of this legislation would change federal acquisition law to require agencies to limit the use of emergency no-bid contracts and to increase transparency and accountability in federal contracting in an effort to protect the taxpayers' money.

An estimated \$10 billion in Iraq reconstruction spending has already been wasted and the waste will continue until legislation such as H.R. 1362 makes it a requirement for agencies to limit the use of these abuse-prone contracts. Congress has held multiple hearings over the abuse that has occurred regarding such waste in federal contracting and now we must act. Waste and fraud occurred not only with Iraq reconstruction contracts but also in connection with Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

Reports of government contractors defrauding the Coalition Provisional Authority of tens of millions of dollars in Iraq reconstruction funds have surfaced and this Administration has done little to try to recover the money. It is time to clean up fraud in Iraq and elsewhere.

I wholeheartedly support H.R. 1362 to change our current federal acquisition laws to require agencies to limit the use of abuse-prone contracts. I applaud this beneficial legislation and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1362.

THE SAFE FACILITIES ACT OF 2007

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last night I introduced legislation, the "Safe Facilities Act of 2007," H.R. 1574, to promote and protect increased safety measures at chemical security plants. Specifically, my legislation would prohibit any federal law, regulation or agency from preempting any State chemical facility safety stipulation which may be more rigorous than the new federal regulations.

As you know, Madam Speaker, last fall Congress passed the Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007 which granted the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the authority to draft "interim final regulations" regarding plant security. While these standards are a necessary baseline for nationwide consideration, the federal regulations must represent a floor, not a ceiling, by which States may structure their own security standards. Federal regulations should not be written in such a way to undermine existing State statutes, which in cases like New Jersey are current and robust.

While I agree with some of the implementation provisions outlined in the interim regulations, my legislation repeals the provision allowing the federal law to preempt the state law. It is particularly difficult to find merit in the Department's plan to preempt state standards since the authorizing statute, Public Law 109-295, was intentionally silent on this issue. The very fact that the legislation did not include a

specific preemption should be taken as the signal of Congressional intent to allow states to implement stricter standards if they act to do so. Federal laws should provide a framework for state laws, buttressing and enhancing existing state statutes not eradicating or replacing laws which in some cases may be more protective.

As you are well aware, September 11, 2001 changed the life of every single American—including the life of every resident in New Jersey. Nearly 700 New Jersey residents lost their lives including many from the 4th Congressional District which I represent in central Jersey. Regrettably, the most densely populated state in the Union is also well acquainted with bio-terror attacks including the subsequent anthrax attack at the U.S. Postal facility in Hamilton, also in my Congressional District. With over 100 major chemical facilities in the State of New Jersey, lawmakers, experts in the field of science, and residents alike are keen to the importance of securing New Jersey's vital infrastructure which could potentially be used as a weapon by a terrorist.

Immediately following the attacks in 2001 and in preparation for the "worst case scenarios" in the event of another terrorist attack, New Jersey established the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force to develop the best security practices and encourage each chemical facility in the state to evaluate security threats and plant vulnerabilities as well as the consequences of a chemical release. In 2005, the best practices became mandatory for New Jersey's facilities. All of New Jersey's facilities are now required to prepare a site-specific, risk and vulnerability assessment, emergency incident prevention and response plan and require worker participation in their security assessments. In addition, 43 chemical facilities subject to the Toxic Catastrophe Prevention Act (TCPA) state program are also required to explore the feasibility of inherently safer technologies as part of state security and preparedness plans.

New Jersey is no stranger to danger when it comes to vulnerabilities in a post 9/11 world. We are acutely aware of the terrorist threat and thus we will not be passive in our fight to prevent future catastrophes. The Garden State is the first state in the Nation to implement vigorous plant security practices and continues to research and develop strategies to improve and enhance current standards and regulations. The federal government has no business undermining the efforts of New Jersey, or any State for that matter, in providing the greatest level of protection for our citizens.

TIBET

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to call to the attention of my fellow committee members an important motion passed by the House of Commons of the Parliament of Canada on February 15, 2007 and a motion currently under consideration of the Senate of the Parliament of Canada.

The motions are part of an international initiative by the Canadian Parliamentary Friends of Tibet, under the leadership of Senator Consiglio di Nino of the Parliament of Canada, to encourage legislators from around the world to urge the government of the People's Republic of China to reach a final and lasting agreement with the Dalai Lama over the situation in Tibet. The initiative is an important step in bringing a peace to the Tibetan people within the context of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China.

The following is the text of the motion passed by the House of Commons and of the Parliament of Canada on February 15, 2007:

That, in the opinion of the House, the government should: Urge the government of the People's Republic of China and the Representatives of Tibet's government in exile, notwithstanding their differences on Tibet's historical relationship with China, to continue their dialogue in a forward-looking manner that will lead to pragmatic solutions that respect the Chinese constitutional framework, the territorial integrity of China and fulfill the aspirations of the Tibetan people for a unified and genuinely autonomous Tibet.

The following is the text of the motion currently under consideration by the Senate of the Parliament of Canada:

That the Senate urge the government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama, notwithstanding their differences on Tibet's historical relationship with China, to continue their dialogue in a forward-looking manner that will lead to pragmatic solutions that respect the Chinese constitutional framework, the territorial integrity of China and fulfill the aspirations of the Tibetan people for a unified and genuinely autonomous Tibet.

COMMENDING WALTER KEITH SINGLETON FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a west Tennessean who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor 40 years ago for the ultimate sacrifice he and his family made in service to our country. Sergeant Walter K. Singleton of Shelby County was killed in action in Vietnam on March 24, 1967, at the young age of 22.

Sgt. Singleton was a proud Marine who, when coming under fire from the enemy, gave his own life to protect the lives of his comrades.

The heroism, gallantry and courage Sgt. Singleton demonstrated on the enemy battlefield 40 years ago represents the selfless service that millions of our Nation's finest have given to the United States Armed Forces. The sacrifice he and his family made is what makes this country great.

Madam Speaker, I hope you and our colleagues will join me in honoring Sgt. Walter K. Singleton for his patriotism and recognize the 40th anniversary of the day he received the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravely giving his life in service to his country.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
ENCOURAGING THE ELIMINATION
OF HARMFUL FISHING SUB-
SIDIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO
OVERCAPACITY IN COMMERCIAL
FISHING FLEETS WORLDWIDE
AND THAT LEAD TO THE OVER-
FISHING OF GLOBAL FISH
STOCKS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, the international community finds itself today at a crossroads with respect to certain policy decisions that will affect the future of the world's fisheries resources. The impacts of the decisions that the international community is poised to make in the coming weeks and months will determine the future sustainability of global fish stocks, including those stocks traditionally harvested by our domestic fishing industry.

Among the challenges to ensuring the sustainability of the world's fisheries resources is the increasing demand for protein by consumers globally. It is precisely this demand for protein that has led to overcapacity in commercial fishing fleets worldwide, and that in turn, is leading to the reported depletion of global fish stocks. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that 75 percent of the world's fish stocks are considered over-fished, fully exploited, significantly depleted, or rebuilding under protective management. Some countries have recognized these depletion trends and the current vulnerability of fish stocks. The United States is among these countries. Together, these countries have taken swift action to responsibly manage, the catch volume and capacity of their domestic fishing fleets. Other countries, however, have not taken similar steps to mitigate the risks to global fish stocks or sought to manage the catch volume and capacity of their fleets from a global sustainability perspective. In fact, their fleets continue to grow in number despite these alarming trends. This imbalance needs to be addressed by the international community and the United States is in a position to exercise leadership and must do so.

In the United States, we are doing what we can to restore, protect, and manage the precious fishery resources within our Exclusive Economic Zone. The most recent reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires that overfishing end by 2011. In addition, the United States government no longer provides economic incentives to build new fishing vessels as it once did two decades ago. Unfortunately, the leadership that the United States and others have demonstrated by proactively and responsibly reprioritizing financial assistance for domestic fishing fleets toward fisheries management programs and services and away from outright subsidies for growing fleet capacity has not been uniformly followed by the international community.

Government subsidies for vessel construction and operation are common in many countries around the world. In these countries, too little of these subsidies go toward beneficial causes such as improving fisheries manage-

ment and science. Rather, much of it goes to subsidize harmful activity, such as increased fuel consumption and fleet expansion. These harmful subsidies artificially decrease the cost of fishing and make it a profitable trade for thousands of vessels which without the benefit of these subsidies could not compete in the marketplace. Current estimates reveal that the sheer number of vessels actively fishing around the world today is 250 percent greater than what is actually necessary to fish at sustainable levels.

Because of the interconnected nature of marine ecosystems, the impacts of overfishing of one stock in one region can have a profound, detrimental and cascading effect across the entire ocean ecosystem. Ecosystems span political boundaries. The effects and consequences of one country's policies and practices that give rise to overfishing, even if limited in its occurrence to be within its own waters, are realized and borne by other countries. But the problem does not stop there. Vessels are increasingly forced to travel farther distances away from their own home ports and familiar waters to contend with increased local competition and in response to a reduction in littoral fish stocks. In many cases, the high seas and even the Exclusive Economic Zones of other countries become enticing targets.

The United States—like other countries—reserves the exclusive right to fish within its 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Hundreds of foreign vessels each year, however, are intercepted while fishing illegally in U.S. waters. This rise in illegal fishing is placing additional pressure on our already exploited resources, damaging our marine ecosystems, and taking away potential revenue from our domestic fishing industry. In 2006 alone, the United States Coast Guard intercepted 164 vessels fishing in our EEZ. This statistic is troubling. But what is even more troubling is the fact that this number represents only the number of vessels that were actually caught. It does not represent the total threat or existence of foreign fishing in our waters, particularly in waters where enforcement is difficult such as the waters around Guam.

On Guam the problem of illegal fishing is insignificant. The Western Central Pacific area, which includes the EEZs around Hawaii, Guam and the other U.S. islands and territories in that region, is considered one of the Coast Guard's three highest threat areas for foreign fishing. The U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Russia borders are the other two. In 2006, the Coast Guard recorded 11 incidents of illegal foreign fishing in the Western Central Pacific area. Since 2000, the Coast Guard has intercepted an average of 34 vessels per year. And, as mentioned earlier, this only represents the vessels that are being caught. There is no way to assess with any certainty how many other vessels are fishing illegally in our waters and thereby harming our fishing fleet by harvesting the fish stocks found within our EEZ.

The species targeted in the Western Central Pacific area are generally extremely valuable, highly migratory species like tuna. Thus, the economic impact of illegal fishing is significant. Additionally, the long-term impact of overfishing on long-lived, predatory species such as tuna compounds the effect on the ocean ecosystem and economy.

The problem of illegal foreign fishing is exacerbated by the fact that complete and com-

prehensive monitoring and enforcement by the Coast Guard of all U.S. waters is impractical. The Coast Guard Living Marine Resource Law Enforcement Division is responsible for patrolling over 3.36 million square miles of ocean, much of which is extremely remote and subject to harsh conditions. The Coast Guard simply does not have the resources to patrol all waters and at all times.

At the same time, the countries whose vessels are the most likely to be found illegally fishing in the U.S. EEZ are also countries that provide large capacity-increasing subsidies to their fishing fleets. Because enforcement is so difficult, it is even more important that we attack the issue at its root by encouraging worldwide capacity reduction and by discouraging other countries from making it economically feasible for their vessels to travel into our waters to fish.

Today, I am introducing a concurrent resolution to encourage our government to work with other countries to bring about an end to the harmful subsidies that contribute to overcapacity in commercial fishing fleets and that lead to overfishing of global fish stocks. The continuing support of otherwise unsustainable fleets by certain countries means an ongoing threat to our country's marine resources and our domestic fishing industry.

While we have no direct control over the actions of foreign governments, the Doha Round of the current World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations have placed the United States in a unique position to influence the future use of harmful fisheries subsidies by these other countries. Through these negotiations the United States is presented with an opportunity to exercise its leadership internationally toward the phasing out of subsidies that increase fishing capacity and that promote overfishing. By passing this concurrent resolution, Congress can demonstrate to the world its support for our government as they move forward with these negotiations.

It is my hope that my colleagues will support this concurrent resolution and that they will join me in encouraging action to protect the interests of our domestic fishing industry, our marine resources, and the sustainability of global fish stocks for the greater and shared interests of all members of the international community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE
CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF
2007

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the bipartisan Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007, along with Representatives KIRK, FRANK, SHAYS, BALDWIN, ROS-LEHTINEN, NADLER and BONO. As of today there are more than 100 original cosponsors. This legislation will provide assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies and amend federal law to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of violent, bias-motivated crimes. Last Congress, this legislation passed with bipartisan support as H. Amdt 544 to the Child Safety Act (H.R.

3132) by a vote of 223–199. Bipartisan majorities also voted in favor of hate crime legislation in the 108th and 106th Congresses.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act has attracted the support of over 210 civil rights, education, religious, and civic organizations. Importantly, virtually every major law enforcement organization in the country has endorsed the bill—including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National District Attorneys Association, the National Sheriffs Association, the Police Executive Research Forum, and 31 state Attorneys General.

Bias crimes are disturbingly prevalent and pose a significant threat to the full participation of all Americans in our democratic society. The FBI has the best national data on reported hate crime, though the program is voluntary. Since 1991, the FBI has documented over 113,000 hate crimes. For the year 2005, the most current data available, the FBI compiled reports from law enforcement agencies across the country identifying 7,163 bias-motivated criminal incidents that were directed against an individual because of their personal characteristics. Law enforcement agencies identified 8,795 victims arising from 8,373 separate criminal offenses. As in the past, racially-motivated bias accounted for more than half (54.7 percent) of all incidents. Religious bias accounted for 1,227 incidents (17.1 percent) and sexual orientation bias accounted for 1,017 incidents—(14.2 percent), followed by ethnicity/national origin bias with 944 incidents—(13.7 percent). While these numbers are disturbing, it is important to note that, for a variety of reasons, hate crimes are seriously under-reported.

Despite the deep impact of hate violence on communities, current law limits federal jurisdiction over hate crimes to incidents directed against individuals on the basis of race, religion, color or national origin—but only when the victim is targeted because he/she is engaged in a federally protected activities, such as voting. Further, the statutes do not permit federal involvement in a range of cases where crimes are motivated by bias against the victim's perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. The federal government must have authority to be involved in investigating and prosecuting these crimes when state authorities cannot or will not do so.

This legislation, which is identical to the version approved in the 109th Congress, will strengthen existing federal law in the same way that the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 helped federal prosecutors combat church arson: by addressing the unduly rigid jurisdictional requirements under federal law. The bill only applies to bias-motivated violent crimes and does not impinge public speech or writing in any way. In fact, the measure includes an explicit First Amendment free speech protection for the accused modeled on the existing Washington state hate crimes statute.

State and local authorities currently prosecute the overwhelming majority of hate crimes and will continue to do so under this legislation. The federal government will continue to defer to state and local authorities in the vast majority of cases; the Attorney General or another high ranking Justice Department official must approve any prosecutions undertaken pursuant to this law, ensuring federal restraint. However, in appropriate circumstances, the federal government will be

able to provide support for local prosecutions—an intergovernmental grant program created by this legislation will make Justice Department technical, forensic or prosecutorial assistance available. The legislation also authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to state and local law enforcement agencies that have incurred extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 is a constructive and measured response to a problem that continues to plague our nation. Hate crime statistics do not speak for themselves. Behind each of the statistics is an individual or community targeted for violence for no other reason than race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. Law enforcement authorities and civic leaders have learned that a failure to address the problem of bias crime can cause a seemingly isolated incident to fester into widespread tension that can damage the social fabric of the wider community. This problem cuts across party lines, and I am glad to be joined by so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in proposing this legislation today. These are crimes that shock and shame our national conscience and should be subject to comprehensive federal law enforcement assistance and prosecution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 19, 2007, I was absent due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 158, agreeing to H.R. 658—Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act.

COMMENDING FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate students of Flower Mound High School for their remarkable performance in the State Academic Decathlon competition. This is a competition that includes some of the brightest students in the State of Texas.

Academic Decathlon is a nation-wide competition which tests high school students in the following 10 academic events: speech, interview, essay, super quiz, language and literature, economics, art, music, social science, and math. The competition takes place at a regional, state, and national level. The theme for this year's categories was "China and its Influence on the World."

In Flower Mound High School's first appearance at the State competition, they finished in 10th place with 41,288 points. Juri Hur, Josh Patterson, and Jamie Choate received gold medals for their outstanding performances.

They were joined in the competition by teammates Jonathan Angel, Danielle Bevers, Melissa Bevers, Kayla Gilliard, Leah Higginson, and Heather Snedeker. The team was coached by Judy Kelmer and Julie Tipton.

I would like to recognize Principal Jack Clark and the entire Flower Mound High School faculty for their dedication to education. It is also necessary to honor the parents of these students for the active role that they have taken in their children's education. I commend all of the participants for their diligence and commitment to academic achievement. I wish them the best as they continue onward, and I am very proud and honored to be their Representative in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE NASH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the first day of Spring brought the family and friends of Grace Elizabeth Nash together in celebration of her everlasting life. Grace Nash passed from this life to be with her Savior on Friday, March 16, 2007 at the age of 52 years.

A native of Jamaica, Grace Nash graduated from the University of Findlay in 1978. She settled in Bowling Green, Ohio and dedicated her career to elder advocacy. She was the activities director for the Wood County Committee on Aging for 22 years until her retirement, when she took on the challenge as executive coordinator of the Ohio Association of Senior Centers. Grace was talented, giving, and truly invested in the lives of the older adults she served and the younger adults she mentored. Her tenure with the Wood County Committee on Aging was marked by a dynamism and professionalism which was unmatched.

Spirituality was woven into the very fibers of Grace's life, and she was the administrator of her congregation, New Life Pentecostals of Toledo Church. Her pastor described her perfectly: Grace "was passionate, she was a dreamer, she had lots of energy, and she was very spiritual. The people who knew her called her Amazing Grace." Indeed she was. With quiet dignity, a ready smile and a helping hand, Grace embodied her name.

Grace Elizabeth Nash leaves a legacy to all whose lives she touched, and many who did not have the privilege of knowing her. Among the people who were so privileged, she will be missed. We extend our heartfelt condolences to them, and especially her brother, sisters, nieces and nephews. May they find comfort in their memories and the gift of Grace's life.

PERSONAL EXPLORATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 19, 2007, I was absent due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call No. 159, agreeing to H.R.

839—Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement Act.

COMMENDING MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate students of Marcus High School for their remarkable performance in the state Academic Decathlon competition. This is a competition that includes some of the brightest students in the State of Texas.

Academic Decathlon is a nation-wide competition which tests high school students in the following 10 academic events: speech, interview, essay, super quiz, language and literature, economics, art, music, social science, and math. The competition takes place at a regional, state, and national level. The theme for this year's categories was "China and its Influence on the World."

The team from Marcus High School finished 3rd at the regional competition and 18th overall at the state competition. Jonathan Neal was awarded a gold medal in the language and literature category. Other contestants from Marcus were Jake Burley, Chelsea Carroll, Preston Hale, Robert Handley, Matthew Henry, Jacqueline Hurlbutt, Emily Robertson, and Tyler Stevenson. Lou Ann Kemper and Dorrie Loughborough were the coaches for the team.

I would like to recognize Principal Kevin Rogers and the entire Marcus High School faculty for their dedication to education. It is also necessary to honor the parents of these students for the active role that they have taken in their children's education. I commend all of the participants for their diligence and commitment to academic achievement. I wish them the best as they continue onward, and I am very proud and honored to be their Representative in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK MCGUIRE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, our community of Northwest Ohio has lost a leader and academic activist whose reach was national in scope. Patrick McGuire lost his battle with cancer on March 18, 2007 and passed from this life at the age of 53 years.

A native of Malone, New York, Mr. McGuire was a Toledo, Ohio resident since accepting a teaching position with the University of Toledo in 1987. He continued teaching throughout, but took on the directorship of the university's Urban Affairs Center in 2000. His leadership oversaw an expansion of that institution and a national recognition of his and the center's efforts. His respected research of community sustainability and development, urban sprawl, the creation of a municipal electrical company, and the so called "brain drain" of young professionals was nationally known.

Equally important to his academic and community leadership, Pat McGuire was dedicated

to his personal life. His family and friends knew him to be a gourmet cook who loved fly fishing. We extend our sympathies to his life partner Linda and children Seamus and Erin, his parents, sister and brother, niece and nephew. We know their loss is profound, and hope comfort is found in the memories they share.

Perhaps the best summation of the life and work of Patrick McGuire was offered by his successor at the Urban Affairs Center: "Patrick was a person with a lot of heart, he was tenacious and righteous, and he fought absolutely for what he believed in . . ." A fine legacy indeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 19, 2007, I was absent due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 157, agreeing to H. Res. 138—Recognizing the importance of Hot Springs National Park on its 175th anniversary.

SENATOR SIMPSON'S WISDOM REBUTS GENERAL PACE'S PREJUDICE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 14, former Senator Alan Simpson published an eloquent and well-reasoned argument for total repeal of the restrictions that now exist on patriotic gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people serving in the military. It is particularly noteworthy that Senator Simpson, like General John Shalikashvili, was an influential supporter of the current restrictive policy when it was imposed in 1993. Like General Shalikashvili, Alan Simpson with the forthrightness and intellectual honesty that marked his distinguished career in the Senate now says that it is time to end that policy, noting that there has been a substantial diminution of anti-gay and lesbian prejudice among the American people, which means that the argument that allowing those of us who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered openly to serve would somehow cause morale problems because of widespread prejudice against us.

Senator Simpson goes on to note that at a time when we are facing a shortage of people able and willing to serve in the military, it is particularly foolish to refuse to allow people who want to serve to do so based on outdated prejudices against them. And I do want to note in this context that even when he was defending a total ban on gays and lesbians in the military in 1990, then General Colin Powell acknowledged that that was not because there was any reason to conclude that gay or lesbian people would be inferior members of the military, but again, only that we were the victims of a prejudice that could be disruptive.

It is particularly disappointing to me, Madam Speaker, therefore, that just as Senator Simpson and General Shalikashvili have acknowledged the diminution of this prejudice, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Peter Pace, has tried to reinvigorate it. General Pace's comment that we who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered are "immoral" solely because of that fact, without any judgment about how we in fact interact with other human beings, is prejudice at its worst. If he were a private citizen, the fact that he felt so unfairly negative towards so many of his fellow citizens would be purely his business. But in fact he cited his condemnation of us as one of the main justifications for a public policy that excludes patriotic gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people from serving in the military. He has since, of course, retracted that part of his statement, but it is clear that he did so only because he has been criticized for it, and not because there has been any change in his opinion.

Madam Speaker, it is entirely wrong for such a high position as Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff to be occupied by someone who is prepared to consign millions of other Americans to second class status because he disapproves of consensual, mutually respectful intimate behavior—that the Supreme Court has made clear can never be criminalized—between consenting adults. Such an effort to use public policy to enforce private views would be strongly rejected, I hope, by the President and others in the administration if it were to be aimed at any other group. I deeply regret that we have not seen a similar reaction when the victims are those of us who are gay or lesbian.

The article by Alan Simpson follows:

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 14, 2007]

BIGOTRY THAT HURTS OUR MILITARY

(By Alan K. Simpson)

As a lifelong Republican who served in the Army in Germany, I believe it is critical that we review—and overturn—the ban on gay service in the military: I voted for "don't ask, don't tell." But much has changed since 1993.

My thinking shifted when I read that the military was firing translators because they are gay. According to the Government Accountability Office, more than 300 language experts have been fired under "don't ask, don't tell," including more than 50 who are fluent in Arabic. This when even Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently acknowledged the nation's "foreign language deficit" and how much our government needs Farsi and Arabic speakers. Is there a "straight" way to translate Arabic? Is there a "gay" Farsi? My God, we'd better start talking sense before it is too late. We need every able-bodied, smart patriot to help us win this war.

In today's perilous global security situation, the real question is whether allowing homosexuals to serve openly would enhance or degrade our readiness. The best way to answer this is to reconsider the original points of opposition to open service.

First, America's views on homosexuals serving openly in the military have changed dramatically. The percentage of Americans in favor has grown from 57 percent in 1993 to a whopping 91 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds surveyed in a Gallup poll in 2003.

Military attitudes have also shifted. Fully three-quarters of 500 vets returning from Iraq and Afghanistan said in a December Zogby poll that they were comfortable interacting with gay people. Also last year, a

Zogby poll showed that a majority of service members who knew a gay member in their unit said the person's presence had no negative impact on the unit or personal morale. Senior leaders such as retired Gen. John Shalikashvili and Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, a former West Point superintendent, are calling for a second look.

Second, 24 nations, including 12 in Operation Enduring Freedom and nine in Operation Iraqi Freedom, permit open service. Despite controversy surrounding the policy change, it has had no negative impact on morale, cohesion, readiness or recruitment. Our allies did not display such acceptance back when we voted on "don't ask, don't tell," but we should consider their common-sense example.

Third, there are not enough troops to perform the required mission. The Army is "about broken," in the words of Colin Powell. The Army's chief of staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, told the House Armed Services Committee in December that "the active-duty Army of 507,000 will break unless the force is expanded by 7,000 more soldiers a year." To fill its needs, the Army is granting a record number of "moral waivers," allowing even felons to enlist. Yet we turn away patriotic gay and lesbian citizens.

The Urban Institute estimates that 65,000 gays are serving and that there are 1 million gay veterans. These gay vets include Capt. Cholene Espinoza, a former U-2 pilot who logged more than 200 combat hours over Iraq, and Marine Staff Sgt. Eric Alva, who lost his right leg to an Iraqi land mine. Since 2005, more than 800 personnel have been discharged from "critical fields"—jobs considered essential but difficult in terms of training or retraining, such as linguists, medical personnel and combat engineers. Aside from allowing us to recruit and retain more personnel, permitting gays to serve openly would enhance the quality of the armed forces.

In World War II, a British mathematician named Alan Turing led the effort to crack the Nazis' communication code. He mastered the complex German enciphering machine, helping to save the world, and his work laid the basis for modern computer science. Does it matter that Turing was gay? This week, Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said that homosexuality is "immoral" and that the ban on open service should therefore not be changed. Would Pace call Turing "immoral"?

Since 1993, I have had the rich satisfaction of knowing and working with many openly gay and lesbian Americans, and I have come to realize that "gay" is an artificial category when it comes to measuring a man or woman's on-the-job performance or commitment to shared goals. It says little about the person. Our differences and prejudices pale next to our historic challenge. Gen. Pace is entitled, like anyone, to his personal opinion, even if it is completely out of the mainstream of American thinking. But he should know better than to assert this opinion as the basis for policy of a military that represents and serves an entire nation. Let us end "don't ask, don't tell." This policy has become a serious detriment to the readiness of America's forces as they attempt to accomplish what is arguably the most challenging mission in our long and cherished history.

TRIBUTE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 186TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, the American people join with the people of Greece in celebrating the 186th anniversary of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire.

The bedrock of our close relationship with Greece is our mutual devotion to freedom and democracy and our unshakable determination to fight, if need be, to protect these rights.

Greek philosophers and political leaders—Cleisthenes and Pericles and their successors—had great influence upon America's Founding Fathers in their creation of these United States.

We, as a Nation, owe a great debt to Greece. Greece is the birthplace of democracy, as we know it.

Thomas Jefferson said, "To the ancient Greeks, we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves (American colonists) out of Gothic darkness."

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 were an attack on democracy and freedom—not just against our people, but also against all freedom-loving people everywhere in the world. The Greek people understand this.

I congratulate the people of Greece and wish them a Happy National Birthday.

ON THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRAQ WAR

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support both for the men and women fighting for our Nation with immeasurable courage and commitment and for the legislation that would bring them home, the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act."

While I have opposed this war from the beginning, our duty now is to resolve this conflict as quickly as possible. We must stabilize the country, protect innocent Iraqis, and lay the groundwork to return our troops to their families.

We were lead into war on the basis of false presumptions drawn from faulty intelligence. Our soldiers are now being attacked daily by anonymous road-side bombs that the factions fighting in a civil war are targeting against our troops—whom we were told would be greeted as liberators.

Billions of taxpayer dollars have simply vanished in Iraq, while billions more have been given away in no-bid contracts or embezzled. At the same time, our troops are going without the body armor and the advanced HUMVEE protections—such as the MRAP system—that would reduce casualties. This is simply inexcusable.

Further, at the present time, according to a survey by USA Today and other media, 6 in 10 Iraqis (61 percent) believe their lives are

going badly, while only a third (35 percent) agree that improvements in current conditions are on the horizon.

Unfortunately, there are no easy answers to the disaster that the Administration's actions in Iraq have created.

However, I believe we must try to ensure that we do not leave Iraq worse off than it was before the invasion. Until Iraqis feel safe in their country and see progress in their lives, it will not be possible to bring stability to that nation.

Importantly, as the most recent National Intelligence Estimate has made clear, this is not something that can be accomplished by the use of military force—it can be achieved only when Iraqis come together to make the difficult political decisions that will create a government truly capable of governing.

Further, the Iraq Study Group advised that a gradual draw-down of troops is most likely to stabilize the country when combined with serious negotiations with all of Iraq's neighbors—including Iran and Syria.

This is why I stand here today in support of the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act." This bill would hold the President and Iraq to the benchmarks President Bush himself has stated must be reached to resolve this crisis.

If these benchmarks are not being met in the months to come, this Act would require that our troops be redeployed. Frankly, if we are not making progress in Iraq, we have no reason to be there.

Further, we owe it to the Iraqis, who have lost tens of thousands of their loved ones, to require that the political solutions that are central to their success are the benchmarks against which we measure our progress.

Additionally, let me note that this bill would also require that all forces sent to battle be adequately rested, trained, and equipped. While the President could waive this requirement, frankly I do not believe it is ever in our interest to send forces into combat who are not fully ready and who do not have the latest protective equipment we can provide.

Our forces have done all and more than we have asked of them and their families have been patiently sacrificing for four long years. We owe it to them to adequately protect them while they are deployed and to bring them home before the 5th anniversary of this war passes.

That is why I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

IN MEMORY OF BOB HATTOY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, Bob Hattoy was a true American original. Sadly, he passed away earlier this month due to AIDS-related complications. His passionate voice on social justice and environmental issues helped break down barriers and moved the country in a better direction.

Bob's defining trait was his passion. He always fought hard for what he believed in—no matter who or what stood in his way. This was especially true during his time as the California regional director for the Sierra Club.

Bob never wavered in fighting for issues such as protecting the California desert and preventing offshore drilling along the coast. He also worked to change the way the Sierra Club operated, putting a more human face on the organization.

He never shied away from taking on people in power—not even Presidents. With his characteristically sharp tongue, he described a proposal to name a national forest after former President Reagan was like “naming a day-care center after W.C. Fields.”

But it was in the debate over AIDS in America where Bob will truly be remembered. In many ways, he helped transform the debate and became, as he joked, a “poster boy for AIDS” in the process.

In 1992, nearly 2 years after being diagnosed, Bob gave one of the most evocative and impassioned speeches at the Democratic National Convention. The first person with AIDS to speak at a party convention, Bob spoke honestly and frankly to millions of Americans. He became an icon in the AIDS movement, and helped change the hearts and minds of many.

I will always remember the unique way he blended this passion for progressive issues with a charming sense of humor. It was his wit that often won over those who disagreed with him and endeared to him those he fought for. Though he will be missed, his legacy, reputation and humor will live on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 157, H. Res. 138—Recognizing the importance of Hot Springs National Park on its 175th Anniversary. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

TRIBUTE TO RALPH FRANZEN AND RICHARD PARADIS

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize and honor two fine volunteers, Ralph Franzen and Richard Paradis, upon their retirement after years of service ensuring the health and safety of the residents of California on the slopes of the famed and historic Squaw Valley Ski Resort.

Ralph and Richard both served on the Squaw Valley National Ski Patrol (SVNSP), an organization of approximately 95 unpaid volunteers who are trained in outdoor emergency care, CPR, and winter rescue. They combined first aid and skiing skills to serve the ski area and public at Squaw Valley USA near Lake Tahoe, California. While on duty at Squaw Valley, patrollers are agents of the resort and work under the direction of the Squaw Valley Ski Patrol Department. Together with the paid patrol staff, they are always among the first on the mountain in the morning and the last off, regardless of weather or snow conditions.

The patrollers' primary function is to provide basic life support, first aid, rescue, and on-the-slope transportation to injured resort guests. Besides first aid and winter rescue duties, volunteer patrol members frequently assist with the skier safety program on the two-mile long Mountain Run to ensure the general safety of the skiing/snowboarding public at Squaw Valley.

Madam Speaker, both of these distinguished gentlemen have spent 35–40 days a year working as volunteers on the Squaw Valley Ski Patrol, providing for the health and safety of the skiers on the mountain. Richard Paradis joined the Squaw Valley National Ski Patrol in 1961 and Ralph Franzen in 1972. They have provided care for countless injured skiers with every level of injury. Over the course of their careers, Ralph Franzen and Richard Paradis have received commendations for rescuing individuals from life threatening situations and injuries. Today, they deserve further recognition upon their retirement.

Ralph and Richard are outstanding volunteers who have proven themselves over the years as certified instructors in first aid, outdoor emergency care, toboggan, and rescue equipment usage. These gentlemen have dedicated countless hours to training the current generation of ski patrol men and women and, as a result, have received the admiration and respect of their fellow Ski Patrol members.

Ralph Franzen and Richard Paradis truly are heroes to the many they have helped save and mend over the years. They are outstanding representatives of the community who have proven records of commitment to public service and their fellow man.

Thank you, Ralph Franzen and Richard Paradis, for your years of dedicated service.

PLUG-IN HYBRID VEHICLES

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that aims to help propel the introduction of plug-in hybrid vehicles by automobile manufacturers. These clean, efficient, high performance vehicles have the potential to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil, lower emissions, and help the nation's auto manufacturer's move forward into the next generation of advanced technology vehicles.

Government mandates are no substitute for the power of capital markets. That is why my bill is aimed squarely at consumers. Providing tax credits to consumers for the purchase of any type of plug-in hybrid vehicle, allows people to pick and choose the model that suits their needs and preferences. The goal of this legislation is to stimulate consumer interest in these new vehicle technologies.

The current bottleneck for producing plug-in vehicles is battery technology. The Administration has proposed millions of new research dollars aimed at advanced battery technology. This type of research is important. Breakthroughs are needed to usher today's concept plug-in vehicles into the showrooms and ready for customer purchase. To date, the types of batteries needed to power cars and trucks are

too heavy, too expensive, and too limited. I am confident, however, that America's ingenuity and desire to take a global lead in battery research will soon overcome the current barriers to entry that exist for plug-in hybrid vehicles.

My bill stimulates consumer demand by providing taxpayers a maximum tax credit of 10 percent of the cost of any plug-in hybrid vehicle up to a maximum \$4,000 in the case of a plug-in with a 4kWh battery. Each additional kWh would get an extra \$250 credit. This model is based on the electric vehicle tax credit.

Most auto manufacturers are already working on plug-in hybrid vehicle technologies. I believe with greater consumer demand, Detroit's automakers can, and will produce vehicles that meet the demands of consumers and address concerns over foreign oil, high gas prices, and cleaner air. My bill is just one of many ideas to help bring about this desired result.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LUCIOUS CARROLL RICHARDSON

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Lucious Carroll Richardson, known to his friends as “Sonny,” who retired from the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs on August 31, 2006. He is a man who truly embodies the American principles of hard work, patriotism, dedication to one's family and service to one's community.

For the past 30 years, the veterans in Walker County, AL, have had no better friend than Sonny Richardson. During that time he unselfishly served Walker County and the State of Alabama with great dedication and distinction. He worked tirelessly to ensure our veterans and their families received the benefits they had earned. His one driving goal was simply to help people. As Sonny once said, “this job is not a position, it is a calling. If you are not interested in helping people, then you do not need to be in this job”.

Sonny began his career with the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs in January 1977. At that point there were approximately 6,800 veterans in Walker County receiving approximately \$4,800,000 in benefits. Today, more than \$19,400,000 in benefits are distributed to approximately the same number of veterans. It was also on his watch that a new Veterans Clinic was opened at Walker Baptist Medical Center in Jasper. In 1987, he rose to the rank of district manager and upon his retirement was supervising two different districts covering 21 counties in north Alabama.

One of Sonny's better known accomplishments was his role in Walker County's annual Veterans Day parade. For 21 years he was the organizer of the parade. Due to his leadership the event grew to become the second largest Veterans Day parade in the State of Alabama. He turned over the reins as organizer 5 years ago to concentrate more on serving the needs of the veterans in Walker County. However, the Walker County Veterans Day parade continues as an annual tradition.

Sonny is a veteran of the United States Army and retired with 20 years of service.

During his military career he earned two Bronze Stars, one Meritorious Service Medal and four Army Commendation Medals and served in Korea, Germany and Vietnam. Upon retiring from the Army, Sonny went back to school and received his bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

He is the recipient of numerous awards for his service to the veterans and the community. In 1988 he was selected for the Fourth Congressional District Distinguished Citizen Award and was the Walker County State Employee of the Year for 1983, 1984 and 1985. He was also twice selected by the American Legion as the Veterans Service Officer of the Year.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to honor Lucious Carroll Richardson for his many years of dedicated service to our Nation's veterans. He has had an enduring impact on his country, community, friends and family. He is a man of great dignity and character who takes pride in the accomplishments of those he has helped over the years. It is clear that he has been a friend and advocate to the veterans of Walker County and the entire surrounding area. Madam Speaker, no doubt Sonny will be greatly missed in his position with the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, I know that Sonny will still remain a friend to those who have served their country. Sonny is an inspiring role model for all of us and I join his friends, family and colleagues in wishing him God's richest blessings in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE COPPELL HIGH SCHOOL LARIETTES DRILL TEAM

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Coppell High School Lariettes Drill Team for earning the National Championship at the Contest of Champions in Orlando's Walt Disney World of Sports complex on March 3-5, 2007. This is the second National Championship in 4 years for the Coppell Lariettes.

The Lariettes competed against 50 schools from across the Nation and took first-place honors in all categories they competed in to earn the National Championship award.

Each of the 69 Lariettes worked tirelessly to perfect their intricate routines. Dedication, hard work and discipline were necessary for the dancers to achieve the standard of excellence required for a first-place finish.

Besides dancing, the Coppell Lariettes achieve high marks academically in addition to other disciplines such as singing, acting, video production, art, journalism and sports.

I would like to congratulate the Lariette director, Julie Jones on her exceptional work with this group of dancers and The Lariette Service Organization for organizing fund raising and team events.

Again, I offer my congratulations to the Coppell High School Lariettes Drill Team for an outstanding achievement.

EQUIPMENT FOR OUR MILITARY

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, thanks to long contributions of our soldiers and our veterans, America has amassed the most powerful military in the history of mankind. It is so powerful that we can almost imagine its resources are infinite. But they are not. They are limited, and due to the ever-expanding, ever-deteriorating war in Iraq, they are stretched dangerously thin. Our soldiers and their families will never complain, but that is why we must speak for them. We must ask—no, demand—that they have the equipment, training and support they need to succeed. And today, they do not.

Since the Iraq war began in 2003, the Army has lost nearly 2,000 wheeled vehicles and more than 100 armored vehicles. Almost half of the U.S. Army's entire supply of ground equipment is now deployed in the Middle East. The constant demands of combat and the treacherous terrain are wearing out equipment at up to nine times the usual rate.

America's military is overburdened, and now our nation must seriously discuss how best to deploy our depleted forces against the dangers of our day. In this age when we face so many perils, from sinister terrorists to an unstable North Korea to a belligerent Iran, do we truly want to devote so many precious resources to an open-ended Iraq war? Or has the time come to, responsibly and conscientiously, hold the Iraqi government responsible for its own stability?

Congress has the duty to demand from President Bush an unambiguous way forward. We should not dictate strategy, but we can and we must require the president to offer a plan to end the Iraq war and rebuild our strategic readiness. Congress and the American people will no longer tolerate an unending war. There must be real progress, sooner rather than later. And if the president and the Iraqi leadership cannot deliver, we must redeploy our troops.

I believe, to the core of my being, that our strategic readiness cannot survive an endless conflict in Iraq. We must make these important decisions based on the reality of the situation, not on where we wish we were. And so, in order to preserve the strength of the American armed forces and hold President Bush accountable, I am supporting the Iraq Accountability Act. I urge my colleagues to do the same. If they refuse to do so, if they cast their ballots for a stay-the-course strategy, then they are telling President Bush that everything is fine in Iraq—that it is OK to stretch our military to the breaking point. And that's just not right.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN CONTRACTING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1362) to reform acquisition practices of the Federal Government:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring to the House's attention the correspondence between myself and Chairman WAXMAN. It deals with the jurisdictions of our respective committees.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, March 21, 2007.

Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, Chairwoman, Committee on Small Business, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN VELÁZQUEZ: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Small Business in H.R. 1362, the Accountability in Contracting Act.

I recognize that the Committee on Small Business has a valid claim to jurisdiction over Section 102 of the bill, and I appreciate your decision not to request a sequential referral. I recognize that your decision to forgo a sequential referral does not waive, reduce or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business. Furthermore, I will support your request for representatives of the Small Business Committee to be conferees on the provisions over which you have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference. I am grateful for the accommodation that you have shown the Oversight Committee.

A copy of this letter, as well as your accompanying letter, will be included as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, Washington, DC, March 21, 2007.

Hon. HENRY WAXMAN, Chairman, Oversight and Government Reform Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write with regard to H.R. 1362, the Accountability in Contracting Act, a bill to reform the acquisition practices of the Federal Government. You introduced it on March 6, 2007, and was considered on the House floor on March 15, 2007 subject to a rule. The bill was referred to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on the Armed Services Committee.

The bill that was reported to the House included Section 102 that would directly affect contracting programs contained within the Small Business Act—including the program established by Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 USC 637), the HUBZone program (15 USC 657a), and the service-disabled veteran procurement program (15 USC 637f)—that rely on agencies awarding government contracts without competition. These three programs are included within the exceptions to non-competitive procurement procedures contained in 41 USC 253(c) in paragraph (5) which allows contracts to be awarded without competition if they are covered by other statutes.

I wish to make clear that the Small Business Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those sections. My support of the bill was provided with the understanding that you and I agree that the referral and consideration of the bill does not in any way serve as a jurisdictional precedent for our two committees.

The parliamentarian and Speaker's offices have recognized that the Small Business

Committee would have been granted a referral if it was so requested. I appreciate your recognition that Section 102 falls under the jurisdiction of the Small Business Committee. Additionally, I hope in the future you would provide for similar consideration and accommodation when the House Small Business Committee considers legislation that may fall under the jurisdiction of our respective committees.

I will insert this letter in the Congressional Record as part of the debate on H.R. 1362.

Sincerely,

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Chairwoman, House Committee
on Small Business.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINGUISHED VETERANS OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 143

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay tribute to the distinguished veterans of American Legion Post 143 in Dadeville, Alabama.

In January, Post 143 held a special ceremony to honor twenty veterans of World War II and the Korean War. These senior members of Post 143, like all distinguished military veterans of our Nation, offered their service in uniform to a country and world in need. When they returned home, their commitment to serve others and their country remained strong. The Veterans honored included Donald Black, Jim Black, Joseph Davis, Dwight Evers, Lamar Evers, Frank Farrow, Wayne Gilbert, Marvin Greer, Leon Guy, Robert Huff, Herman Kitchens, Joe McKelvey, Horace Moran, Hugh Owen, Roy Pugh, Jimmy Sanford, Paul Valentine, and Millard White, all of whom have continued to serve their community proudly through their work with the American Legion.

I salute all the veterans of Post 143 for their service and patriotism, and for proudly serving the common good throughout their lives.

CRITICIZING NON-DEFENSE SPENDING IN THE EMERGENCY WAR SUPPLEMENTAL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the supplemental spending bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but I also wish to register some deep reservations I have with the bill. While I applaud the bill for providing for our troops serving bravely in the field, the bill contains \$20 billion for programs and projects not related to funding and equipping our troops. Making sure that our men and women in uniform are well equipped is too important for playing politics, and I am extremely disappointed that these extraneous provisions are included in the bill.

Madam Speaker, many projects funded in the bill have nothing to do with equipping our

troops and nothing to do with fighting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, many projects in the bill simply don't belong. However, much of the extra non-defense spending in the bill is for important and vital programs and I find it sad that we have to use this supplemental spending bill to fund them. I say sad, Madam Speaker, because the fact that the bill includes things like \$2.9 billion for Katrina recovery, \$2.6 billion for homeland security, and \$750 million for children's health care is a testament to the dereliction of duty exhibited by the rubber stamp 109th Congress. We have to fund these vital programs in this year's emergency spending bill because our predecessors left Washington last year without passing a budget and without doing their jobs. Madam Speaker, this is a disgrace and I am so pleased that there's now a Democratic Congress to clean up the mess that was left by the Republican Congress on its way out.

In prior years, the Republican controlled Congress was guilty of even more egregious earmarks and runaway spending, such as the now infamous "Bridge to Nowhere" in Alaska. Seeing Congress waste taxpayers dollars on such frivolous projects is one reason why I decided to run for Congress and it is why I have joined the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition.

A major reason that we have all of these extra projects in supplemental spending bills is because President Bush irresponsibly refuses to account for war spending in the regular budget process. This leads to war spending being brought up as so-called "emergency" spending bills, which Congress must pass in order to fund our troops. This fiscal recklessness when dealing with funding for our troops is unique to the Bush administration. The Korean War only had one supplemental spending bill, while the Vietnam War, which lasted eleven years, only had four.

Madam Speaker, I'm not the type of person who points out problems without proposing a solution. The people of the 8th district sent me here to lead, and that is exactly what I intend to do. For this reason, I have introduced H. Res. 97, a bill to provide for Operation Iraqi Freedom cost accountability. My bill, among other things, would require that funding for the war in Iraq go through the regular budgeting process, rather than be funded through an endless series of "emergency" spending bills. In my view, this would eliminate the ability to attach non-defense spending projects to a bill that should be about one thing and one thing only: Providing for our troops.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I do wish to say that there is a great deal to admire in this bill. It provides our troops with the funding they need to do their jobs. It provides for benchmarks for the Iraqis and a timeline for bringing our troops home. And it sends a message to President Bush that he no longer has a rubber stamp Congress that will keep funding this war without questioning him. I only wish we could have done all of this without these extra unrelated projects. Still, it is important that we not let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and it is important to let the president know that it is time to start bringing our troops home.

HONORING LINDA TREXLER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Trexler, Principal of Neabsco Elementary School, upon being selected as the Prince William County Distinguished Educational Leadership Award winner and being named Prince William County Principal of the Year.

The Washington Post presents annual awards to outstanding educators who "day after day go beyond the challenges of the highly demanding profession to create exceptional educational environments for Washington area students." Principal Trexler certainly fits this definition.

For the past 7 years Principal Trexler has devoted herself to the success of her students at Neabsco Elementary School. Under her leadership the school has become a fully accredited institution, a model of instructional improvement and has twice been named a School of Excellence in the Prince William County Public School system. Additionally, the school boasts a 90.1 percent SOL pass rate in math and a 91.4 percent SOL pass rate in language arts. These awards and statistics show the unique impact that a principal, faculty and student body can achieve when motivated to reach the common goal of academic excellence. It is plain to see that Principal Trexler has been able to lead her school to reach that goal.

Principal Trexler's adoration and devotion to her students has been accepted and returned by the faculty and student body. Upon hearing about these awards, her students organized to write a song and create banners in her honor. This relationship built on respect and love for education has created an atmosphere that deserves celebration and should be replicated throughout the schools of our area and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Ms. Linda Trexler on her tireless efforts to ensure that the students of Neabsco Elementary School receive the quality education they deserve. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Principal Trexler for receiving the 2007 Prince William County Distinguished Educational Leadership Award and being named Prince William County Principal of the Year. I wish Principal Trexler, her faculty and her students continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN FRANCIS LANDRY, JR.

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero, Private First Class John Francis Landry, Jr., who gave his life in service to our country.

Private First Class Landry was a resident of Lowell, a community in my Massachusetts district, and was deployed with the brave men and women serving in our armed forces on

October 31, 2006. John had served nearly 5 months in Iraq, when his unit was ambushed in Baghdad on March 17, 2007. John had been spending time on leave with his family in Florida just 8 days before his tragic death in that ambush.

John served as a rifleman with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based at Fort Bliss, Texas. He was 20 years old, having been born on Christmas Day in 1986.

John's parents, John and Pamela, were proud of their son, not just for the supreme sacrifice he paid on behalf of his country, but for the honor he brought to them as a soldier. Military service runs deep in the Landry family. John's grandfather was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and his father served in the U.S. Marine Corps. All of his life, John dreamt of becoming a part of that legacy of service, and he died fulfilling that dream.

Before joining the United States Army, John attended Lowell Catholic High School where he was remembered for his kindness, his aptitude in the classroom and his hard-nosed leadership a co-captain and as an offensive and defensive lineman on the football team. Lowell Catholic was nearly finished with a care package to send to John in Iraq when they learned of his death.

As John's aunt, Missy Surette, said: "All that were fortunate enough to have had John as a part of their lives, feel the sadness and loss beyond words. Along with that sadness is a sense of honor and of being very proud of John. We will forever keep him in our hearts."

John died fighting for the country he loved, alongside comrades he respected and with the family he adored, forever in his heart. Our Nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we all take a moment to recognize PFC John Francis Landry, Jr., United States Army, who paid the ultimate sacrifice fighting for our country. Our Nation will be forever grateful.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GLOBAL WARMING ACKNOWLEDGMENT RESOLUTION

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that calls for a comprehensive and effective national program of mandatory, market-based limits and incentives to slow, stop and reverse greenhouse gas emissions. The Global Warming Acknowledgment Resolution also states that these corrective actions should not harm the economy unduly, and that they should be designed in a way to encourage other countries to take similar steps to mitigate global warming.

As the producer of roughly one-quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions—more than any other country—the United States has a responsibility to take the lead in confronting the threat of global warming. And with the release of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's most recent report in February, it is clear that the U.S. Congress must begin to act now to reduce greenhouse gases.

The IPCC report, which represents the most comprehensive and up-to-date climate research, found that global warming is unequivocal and that it is more than 90 percent probable that human activity is responsible for most of the warming of the past 50 years.

Madam Speaker, the time for "what-ifs" is over and the time for corrective action has arrived. During this 110th Congress, we will debate the best ways to reverse the increased accumulation of greenhouse gases. While we may disagree on the particulars of this debate, it is clear that global warming is a real threat, and the Global Warming Acknowledgment Resolution is a first step toward the development of a comprehensive strategy. There are 22 original cosponsors of the resolution, and I urge your support. Feel free to contact my staff if you would like to sign on to this important legislation.

HONORING THE WOODBRIDGE KIWANIS CLUB

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Woodbridge, Virginia.

In 1947, Frank Sigman and Carroll White noticed a dearth of civic engagement in their local Woodbridge community. Having been previously exposed to Kiwanis, they decided that the culture of civic and community engagement promoted by Kiwanis would greatly benefit the area. They canvassed their neighborhoods in an effort to create an interest in starting a Woodbridge club. This work paid off and on March 22, 1947, the Woodbridge chapter was chartered. In fact, they were so successful in creating support that more than 200 people attended what turned out to be a gala affair.

Taking root from these strong seeds, the club became a positive factor in shaping the development of Woodbridge. In the early days, the club helped establish a public water and sewage system, create a rescue squad, obtain land for a little league and provided organizational support for the creation of the Prince William County Police Department and the formation of the Potomac Hospital.

Currently, the club maintains its strong ties to the local community by working with the local Boys and Girls Clubs, the Salvation Army, Action in the Community Through Service, Potomac Hospital's Mobile Family Health Clinic, the Senior Citizen's Center and the Special Olympics to provide services and financial support to those in need.

Kiwanis is an international institution created to "serve the children of the world." They were founded on six guiding principles that continue to lead their activities to this day. These six permanent "Objects of Kiwanis" are: to give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life; to encourage daily living of the Golden Rule; to promote the adoption and application of higher social, business, and professional standards; to develop by precept and example a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship; to provide a practical means to form enduring friendships; and better communities and to cooper-

ate in creating and maintaining sound public opinion and high idealism.

The Woodbridge Kiwanis Club continues to use these noble principles to guide their efforts in the community to this day. It is plain to see that the club has played a fundamental role in making this area of Eastern Prince William County a great place to live, work and play.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate all Kiwanians on the service they provide to their communities. Their tireless efforts on behalf of the next generation truly merit recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the Woodbridge Kiwanis Club on its 60th anniversary and in wishing them continued success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on March 19. If I had been present for rollcall votes on the following bills; I would have voted "yea" on each.

Rollcall No. 157: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Resolution H. Res.138—Recognizing the importance of Hot Springs National Park on its 175th anniversary.

Rollcall No. 158: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 658—Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act.

Rollcall No. 159: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 839—Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement Act.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, ITS MEMBER SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND THEIR ANNUAL MARCH FOR MEALS CAMPAIGNS

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise here today in support of a resolution honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March for Meals campaigns.

Today, mayors and Meals on Wheels volunteers in all 50 States will join together to deliver meals to seniors. Mayors for Meals Day is part of March for Meals, a national campaign during the month of March to raise awareness of senior hunger and to encourage action on the part of local communities. The month of March was chosen because it was during this month that the law was enacted that included senior meal programs in the Older Americans Act.

This resolution recognizes the important work Meals on Wheels does in preventing senior hunger and improving the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of our Nation's seniors. It also encourages Members of Congress to support their local senior nutrition programs by participating in their annual March for Meals events and delivering meals to homebound seniors in a community within their district or State.

While, due to our business in Washington, DC, today, I am unable to participate in this year's celebration, I have proudly participated in past Meals on Wheels Association of America's March for Meals events. I have joined volunteers from Meals on Wheels organizations throughout my district in delivering meals and witnessed first hand both the need for these important programs and the incredible dedication of their staff and volunteers. I encourage each of you to get involved with your local programs—whether you help prepare meals, deliver meals, or just join local seniors in enjoying their meals—your support can make a difference.

I also encourage you to join me as a cosponsor of this resolution which will give the Meals on Wheels Association of America and its member programs the honor and recognition they so richly deserve.

HONORING JUSTIN PAWLEY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, the right to vote is the cornerstone of our American democracy. I rise today to honor Mr. Justin Pawley, an exemplary individual from my Congressional District, who has fought hard to protect and expand voter rights.

Mr. Pawley, a self-described political junkie, is one of millions of Americans living with Down Syndrome. His civic awareness and interest in our political system motivated him to utilize his right to vote in 2000. Sadly, Mr. Pawley was turned away due to a State statute that prevented adults with guardians to vote in the Commonwealth. Soon thereafter, he began a 7 year effort to correct this injustice.

Mr. Pawley has demonstrated remarkable courage and determination through his work with State and local officials to get his right to vote. The Justin Pawley Act was introduced in the Kentucky Legislature last year to allow thousands of individuals with guardians the right to vote in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Mr. Pawley's quest came one step closer to realization last week when the bill passed both houses of the Kentucky State Legislature.

Mr. Pawley's relentless pursuit of his right to vote is an inspiring example of how one person can make an important difference in our political process. It is my honor to recognize Justin Pawley today before the entire House of Representatives. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective appreciation and respect.

RECOGNITION OF BILLY WALKABOUT

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a great American and great Oklahoman, Billy Walkabout. Mr. Walkabout was the most decorated American Indian soldier in the Vietnam War, and this weekend his family will have the great honor of laying him to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Walkabout, a Cherokee, joined the Army soon after graduating from U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma in 1968. On November 20, 1968, Army Ranger Sergeant Walkabout and 12 of his fellow soldiers were on a mission behind enemy lines when they suddenly came under fire. The battle lasted several hours, during which Sergeant Walkabout was seriously injured. Despite these injuries, Walkabout continued to provide life saving measures to his wounded colleagues and help them board evacuation helicopters—all while continuing to return fire.

Because of his incredible courage and valor, Billy Walkabout received the Distinguished Service Cross, 5 Silver Stars, 5 Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to be a Member of this House and to serve those great Americans like Billy Walkabout. His service, bravery and patriotism are true testaments of his character. I am proud to stand before this House in recognition of the great life and service of Mr. Billy Walkabout.

CONGRATULATIONS GROVE JUNIOR HIGH DARE STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the DARE Students of the Year from Grove Junior High School in Elk Grove Village.

These students participated in the Grove Junior High DARE program during the 2006–2007 school year to learn about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol. In recognition of their outstanding classroom participation and positive attitude, Anthony White and Christian Barajas were named DARE Students of the Year and Jaela Gibbs and Dahee Will were named runners-up.

These students have learned to resist peer pressure and live productive drug, gang, and violence-free lives. I commend these students for their hard work and encourage them to continue to set a good example for their peers.

Anthony, Christian, Jaela, and Dahee, your families, your school, and your community are extremely proud of what you've accomplished. I wish you all the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, due to the fact that my flight reservation was inadvertently canceled and I had to take a later flight, I missed three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 138, which passed 399–0 on rollcall vote No. 157, H.R. 658, which passed 390–10 on rollcall vote No. 158, and H.R. 839, which passed 394–1 on rollcall vote No. 159.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, Members of Congress, leaders of our armed forces and, of course, our treasured Medal of Honor recipients. Thanks to all of you all for joining me in remembering the extraordinary achievements of our combat veterans—particularly those who wear the Congressional Medal of Honor. It's also a real pleasure once again to have the chance to be with Bruce Crandall, who received his Medal recently at a White House ceremony that I attended earlier this month. When the President read the citation detailing the amazing heroism that Bruce displayed in Vietnam, it was again a reminder to me of how special each of these individuals are and how important it is that we provide adequate recognition to those who achieve this highest military commendation.

Out of more than 3,400 individuals to receive this medal in our nation's history, just 112 remain with us today.

Their actions in battle, and their continued efforts now as shepherds of patriotism, remind us all how fortunate this Nation is to have men as brave as these among us. Your legacy and lessons of sacrifice continue to inspire us to act with loyalty where we work, live and serve; to walk with courage when obstacles hinder us from the right path.

I am honored to be able to serve in my capacity as a member of the United States Congress, and am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution creating the National Medal of Honor day. You have been recognized by your Nation's leadership with the highest medal of military distinction. Now your fellow citizens will always recognize you with a day in your honor.

Thank you for your bravery that brought America to where she is today, and thank you for all that you continue do to demonstrate the values of loyalty, sacrifice, integrity, and courage.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Agriculture Day,

which is celebrated each year on the first day of spring.

With more than 8,000 farms, Madam Speaker, agriculture plays a critical role in the economy of the Third District. We lead the state of Indiana in the production of cattle and calves, dairy products, sheep, and goats. As a state, Indiana has long been among the leading producers of corn and soybeans—planting more than 11 million acres—and we are first in the nation in duck production, supplying approximately 30 percent of the nation's total.

Because of the hard work and dedication of farmers and ranchers, Americans have become accustomed to a safe, abundant, and affordable supply of food and fiber. Even more remarkable, and often overlooked, is the fact that farmers and ranchers feed and clothe this nation with an increasing levels of concern for environmental stewardship and animal welfare. The well-being of livestock and the sustainability of the land is a top priority. Indeed, I have seen firsthand in my district the adoption of best-management practices to conserve soil, nutrients, and water, as well as crop protection products that not only improve the viability of agriculture but also prevent flooding and improve water quality for cities and towns downstream.

In addition, as we are all aware, our country is now turning to the American farmer and rancher to help solve our energy crisis. We have placed a new interest in ethanol, and the agriculture industry has responded with vigor. Our goal of 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol will be attained by 2009 rather than 2012 as was expected. Some may say that our food supply is threatened by the push for ethanol. However, our farmers and ranchers have risen to the call before and will become an important part of our energy solution.

Madam Speaker, agriculture's contributions to America's economy, culture, and history should be celebrated, and I ask that my colleagues join with me in wishing our farmers and ranchers continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ROGER L. JONES, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Roger L. Jones, Sr. as he is appointed Jurisdictional Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ.

After graduating from Saints College Church of God in Christ at Lexington, Mississippi in 1960, Bishop Roger Jones Sr. moved to Flint Michigan and founded Greater Holy Temple COGIC in 1963. Bishop Jones quickly established himself as an up and coming leader in the Church of God in Christ. Appointed District Superintendent in 1965 by Bishop J.S. Bailey, he also served as the Chair of the State Finance Committee the same year. Over the next several years Bishop Jones has also served in the following capacities: Chairman of State Expediting Committee, Vice-Chair and Chair of the State Elders Council, the National Platform Chair for the International Youth Congress, Vice-Chair of the International Trustee Board, and Chair of the International Trustee Board.

Bishop Jones was consecrated a Bishop of the Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of South West Michigan in 1985. Along with his wife, Evangelist Sandra Smith Jones, Bishop Jones continues to affirm his faith every day and espouse the guiding principles of the Church of God in Christ. He strives to bring all to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Bishop Roger L. Jones, Sr. as he is appointed the Jurisdictional Bishop of Southeast Michigan and pray that he continues to work diligently to make a better life and future for his congregation and the people of Michigan.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL NATHAN WINDSOR

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a fallen American hero. Last Saturday, Lance Corporal Nathan Windsor made his final sacrifice on behalf of a grateful nation while on patrol in the Anbar province of Iraq.

Nathan understood that citizenship meant responsibility and that great sacrifices would be required in order to secure our freedoms and to serve our country in its time of need.

Well aware of the danger and more than willing to endure the risks, Nathan selflessly charged into chaos to help the people of Iraq secure a peace and work toward a self-governing society.

It saddens me, Madam Speaker, to come before you again to ask that my colleagues join in mourning the loss of yet another young American who has made the ultimate sacrifice.

Nathan gave his all before fully experiencing the many freedoms for which he fought. His aspirations to become a movie producer will never be realized because his life and dreams were tragically cut short.

Words alone cannot express the anger, frustration and pain felt by the thousands whose lives he touched, but we have an obligation to ensure that future generations of Americans inherit a land worthy of his sacrifice.

We are all indebted to Nathan's spirit and sacrifice. It is now, and will be forever, our turn to repay the debt. Let us recommit ourselves in this chamber to work even harder and to do our part to make sound decisions about matters of peace and war.

I join all Oregonians, and all Americans, in expressing my deepest condolences to the family of Nathan Windsor for their loss. Our community is greater because of Nathan's short presence and we are certainly lessened by his passing.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 26

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To receive a briefing on the reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

SR-232A

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the progress of the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme and to receive information on lessons learned for policy-makers who want to better understand how a market-based trading program could operate efficiently and effectively in the United States.

SD-G50

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for mind, brain and behavioral research at the National Institutes of Health.

SD-116

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine a review of the Real ID Act of 2005 and the proposed regulations released by the Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2006, implementing Act, focusing on efforts to secure drivers' licenses and identification cards.

SD-342

3 p.m.

Judiciary

Human Rights and the Law Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the problem of human trafficking and the legal options to stop the problem.

SD-226

MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Claude M. Kicklighter, of Geor-

gia, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense, James R. Clapper, Jr., of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, and S. Ward Casscells, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

SH-216

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SD-106

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense cooperation and collaboration, focusing on health care issues.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine competition and consumer choice relating to exclusive sports programming.

SR-253

Finance

To hold hearings to examine opportunities and challenges in the U.S.-China economic relationship.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the Employee Free Choice Act, focusing on restoring economic opportunity for working families.

SD-430

1 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine ensuring safe medicines and medical devices for children.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine intelligence matters.

SH-219

MARCH 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Strategic Forces Program in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the current economic outlook.

SH-216

9:45 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Labor.

SD-124

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine risks and reform, focusing on the role of currency in the U.S.-China relationship.

SD-215

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the future of the Coast Guard Dive Program.

SR-253

Rules and Administration

Business meeting to consider S. 223, to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

SR-301

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Navy.

SD-192

Aging

To hold hearings to examine affordable drug coverage that works for Wisconsin, focusing on preserving senior care.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Appropriations

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for United States Forest Service.

SD-124

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine transitioning to a next generation Human Space Flight System.

SR-253

3 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine No Child Left Behind Reauthorization, focusing on effective strategies for engaging parents and communities in schools.

SD-430

3:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine active component, reserve component, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years Defense Program.

SR-232A

MARCH 29

9:15 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian trust fund litigation.

SR-485

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine an update on Iran.

SD-419

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of AMVETS, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Gold Star Wives of America, Fleet Reserve Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, Military Officers Association of America, and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

Closed business meeting and hearing regarding certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

APRIL 10

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

SR-253

<p>APRIL 11</p> <p>9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Veterans' Affairs</p> <p>To hold hearings to examine issues relative to Filipino veterans.</p> <p>SR-418</p> <p>10 a.m.</p> <p>Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs</p> <p>To hold hearings to examine the availability and affordability of property</p>	<p>and casualty insurance in the Gulf Coast and other coastal regions.</p> <p>SD-538</p> <p>APRIL 17</p> <p>10 a.m.</p> <p>Judiciary</p> <p>To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.</p> <p>SD-106</p>	<p>APRIL 25</p> <p>2 p.m.</p> <p>Veterans' Affairs</p> <p>To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs, focusing on mental health issues.</p> <p>SR-418</p>
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